

**Campaign Finance Inquiry**

**Q.** What's your response to the call from GOP Senators on hearings——

**The President.** On what?

**Q.** ——on donations to the Democratic National Committee—[*inaudible*].

**The President.** They'll have to do their business. They can do whatever they think is right. It's all—I'm going to spend my time working on what I can do.

And let me again say to the Russian Ambassador how glad we are to have you here, sir, today. And today, the Vice President has flown to Lisbon. He will be there with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin at the OSCE meeting. We're all thrilled at the reports we get of President Yeltsin's excellent recovery from his surgery. And this is the kind of partnership that we are working hard to build between our two nations. And we are honored to have you here, and we look forward to more of the same.

Thank you, and thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Yuliy Vorontsov; Dr. Lucid's husband, Michael; Indonesian businessman Mochtar Riady; and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting the Report on the  
Lapse of the Export Administration  
Act of 1979**

*December 2, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Proclamation 6962—To Implement  
the United States-Israel Agreement  
on Trade in Agricultural Products**

*December 2, 1996*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

1. On April 22, 1985, the United States entered into the Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Israel ("the FTA Agreement"), approved by the Congress in the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 ("the FTA Act") (19 U.S.C. 2112 note).

2. The United States and Israel acknowledge that they have differing interpretations as to the meaning of certain rights and obligations in the FTA Agreement, in particular with respect to market access for certain United States agricultural products. In order to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to agricultural trade with Israel, on November 4, 1996, the Government of the United States entered into an agreement with the Government of Israel concerning certain aspects of trade in agricultural products, effective December 4, 1996, through December 31, 2001 ("the 1996 Agreement").

3. Section 4(b) of the FTA Act provides that, whenever the President determines that it is necessary to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Israel provided for by the FTA Agreement, the President may proclaim such withdrawal, suspension, modification, or continuance of any duty, or such continuance of existing duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties as the President determines to be required or appropriate to carry out the FTA Agreement.

4. Pursuant to section 4(b) of the FTA Act, I have determined that it is necessary, in order to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions

with respect to Israel, to provide through the close of December 31, 2001, access into the United States customs territory for specified quantities of certain agricultural products of Israel free of duty or certain fees or other import charges.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2483) ("the 1974 Act"), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS") the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to section 4 of the FTA Act and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do hereby proclaim:

(1) In order to implement aspects of the 1996 Agreement with the Government of Israel concerning certain aspects of trade in agricultural products, the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(3) The modifications to the HTS made by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates set forth in such Annex, and the tariff treatment set forth therein shall be effective as provided in such Annex through December 31, 2001.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 4, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 3, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5.

## **Letter to Congressional Leaders on Rwanda and Zaire**

*December 2, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

The humanitarian situation in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region of eastern Zaire has been a continuing source of international concern. Although approximately 600,000 refugees have recently returned to Rwanda from Zaire, the situation remains uncertain. An estimated 200,000 or more refugees and displaced persons remain scattered in eastern Zaire likely without adequate food, water, shelter, or medical care. Repatriation is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. Urgent action may still be required, however, to supply essential relief to refugees and displaced persons still located in eastern Zaire and to assist those refugees that have returned to Rwanda.

In response to United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1080 (1996), the United States plans to participate in a multinational effort, led by Canada, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to facilitate the voluntary, orderly repatriation of refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian aid organizations as well as the voluntary return of displaced persons. Pending final consultation with our allies, I expect the United States to contribute personnel and equipment to the headquarters, civil-military affairs and psychological operations units, and other support elements as required.

In furtherance of UNSCR 1080 and the aim of the multinational effort, the United States has already positioned personnel and equipment in furtherance of "Operation Guardian Assistance" (approximately 400 personnel are currently in the region) to conduct non-combat missions, including airlift, air control, and related services in support of ongoing humanitarian efforts by Rwanda and private relief organizations.